

**COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE
OF THE
JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES**

August 1996

TO THE BENCH, BAR, AND PUBLIC:

The Judicial Conference Advisory Committees on the Appellate, Civil, and Criminal Rules have proposed amendments to the federal rules and forms and requested that the proposals be circulated to the bench, bar, and public for comment. The advisory committee notes explain the proposals.

We request that all suggestions and comments, whether favorable, adverse, or otherwise, be placed in the hands of the Secretary as soon as convenient and, in any event, **no later than February 15, 1997**. All communications on rules and forms should be addressed to the Secretary of the Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, Washington, D.C. 20544.

To provide persons and organizations wishing an opportunity to comment orally on the proposed amendments, a hearing is scheduled to be held on the amendments to the Appellate Rules in Denver, Colorado on November 15, 1996; to the Civil Rules in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on November 22, 1996, in Dallas, Texas on December 16, 1996, and in San Francisco, California on January 17, 1997; and to the Criminal Rules in Oakland, California on December 13, 1996.

Those wishing to testify should contact the Secretary of the Committee at the above address **at least 30 days before the hearing**. The respective advisory committees will review all timely received comments and will take a fresh look at the proposals in light of the comments. If an advisory committee approves a proposal, it and any revisions as well as a summary of all comments received from the public will then be considered by the Standing Committee. All comments are made part of the official record and are available for public inspection.

The Judicial Conference Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure **has not approved these proposals**, except to authorize their publication for comment. The proposed amendments have not been submitted to or considered by the Judicial Conference of the United States or the Supreme Court.

Alicemarie H. Stotler
Chair

Peter G. McCabe
Secretary